

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to encourage the Governor and the Department of Natural Resources to reverse the decision to close the Horseman's Camp in the Potato Creek State Park and to urge the Legislative Council to direct the Natural Resources Study Committee to study the feasibility of keeping the campground open.

**RIEGSECKER, WEATHERWAX,
FORD, ADAMS K, ZAKAS,
BRODEN**

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION to encourage the Governor and the Department of Natural Resources to reverse the decision to close the Horseman's Camp in the Potato Creek State Park and to urge the Legislative Council to direct the Natural Resources Study Committee to study the feasibility of keeping the campground open.

Whereas, Horseman's Camp, located in Potato Creek State Park in North Liberty, is a 70-site facility that allows campers to tie-up their horses on site;

Whereas, the Governor has directed the Department of Natural Resources to cut \$8.2 million from their budget, and, as a result of the Governor's cuts, the Department of Natural Resources initiated an effort to determine where and how money could be saved;

Whereas, at the end of their search, the Department of Natural Resources had targeted Horseman's Camp for closure, and services at the campground are currently scheduled to be discontinued on June 30, 2002;

Whereas, the closure of Horseman's Camp is projected to cut between \$8,000 and \$9,000 from the Department's total operating budget;

Whereas, though the Department has stated that fees generated by the use of the campground do not cover the



operating expenses for the facility, it is not clear that an effort has been made to study the feasibility of increasing fees or utilizing volunteer labor to meet the projected cost savings;

Whereas, on February 23, 2002, a crowd of approximately 150 constituents made it clear to their elected representatives in the Indiana General Assembly that Horseman's Camp plays a vital role in their lives;

Whereas, in addition to those directly affected by the inability to use the campground, there are many more citizens throughout Northern Indiana indirectly affected by decreased spending in equestrian activities, including the manufacturers of horse trailers in the Elkhart area; and

Whereas, many of these same Hoosiers expressed an enthusiastic willingness to pay more in usage fees or to volunteer their time for the maintenance of the campground, if such efforts would keep the site open: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:

1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly, on behalf of the
2 People of the State of Indiana, does hereby urge the Governor and the
3 Department of Natural Resources to postpone indefinitely the closure
4 of Horseman's Camp in Potato Creek State Park.

5 SECTION 2. That the Legislative Council is urged to charge the
6 designated committee with studying the feasibility of keeping the
7 campground open through a variety of increased fees and utilization of
8 volunteer labor.

9 SECTION 3. That the designated committee, if so charged, shall
10 report the results of its study to the Legislative Council before
11 November 1, 2002.

